Withdrawal of subsidies on freight movement

412. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to withdraw all subsidies and concessions available for freight movement at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Appointment of a Committee on Kondan Rail route

413. SHRI. N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member committee was appointed to sort out the Konkan rail route controversy in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) A one man High Level Committee has been appointed.

(b) The Committee consists of Justice G. J. Oza, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of a new train between Nizamuddin and Mangalore

414. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new train has been introduced between Nizamuddin and Mangalore since 1st July;

(b) if so, what is the capacity in different classes in new train;

(c) whether any change has been effected as to the total capacity to the 2626 Kerala Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *Reserved*:

AC Sleeper — 46 berths.

I Class — 26 berths.

Sleeper class — 720 berths.

Unreserved: — 260 seats.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total accommodation for Trivandrum side has increased by one AC Sleeper coach, 4 Sleeper class coaches and one unreserved coach.

Bombs planted on railway tracks on Jammu-Kathua Section

415. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 bombs planted on both sides of the Railway tracks on the Jammu-Katra section of Northern Railway had been detected during June, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of this incident;

(c) whether this timely detection had averted any major rail disaster;

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) whether any cash reward has been given to the person who helped this detection;

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure constant vigil on railway tracks before departure of every passenger train; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 27-6-93 at about 22.00 hours the Patrolmen under PWI/Sambha detailed for track patrolling duty in between Ghagwal and Hira Nagar Railway Station had noticed that 10 bombs were lying under the railway track at Km. No. 50/6-7.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On seeing the approaching Pune bound 4678 Dn. Jhelum Express, the patrolling party immediately waved red signal in order to draw attention of the driver of incoming train. As a result the train stopped just before the site and thus an accident was averted.

(e) and (f) Divisional Railway Manager/Firozpur and General Manager/Northern Railway have awarded cash reward of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 respectively to both the patrolmen.

(g) and (h) The following security measures have been taken for the safety of track and safe running of the trains:—

1. 24 hour track patrolling is being done by gangmen of Engineering branch over J & K area.

2. Night track patrolling is also being organised in vulnerable areas to the extent possible.

3. GRP/Jammu Tawi has also introduced patrolling in this section with effect from 30-6-93.

4. Intelligence machinery has been geared up and vulnerable sections/Stations were given attention in providing security.

5. Close liaison is being maintained with State Police authorities.

6. All important trains are being escorted.

7. A special watch is being kept on empty rakes at platforms and washing lines.

Introducing the policy of privatisation in catering service

416. SHRI BRAHAMDEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration has introduced the policy of privatisation in catering services;

(b) if so, the criteria for allotment of the Pentry Cars on the Railways; and

(c) the names of the trains in which Dining Cars are allotted to private contractors at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Catering licences are awarded to the reputed and professional caterers after following the prescribed procedure. The basic criteria is capability, reputation and experience to supply requisite standard of food and service to the travelling passengers.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Cat Scan in Railway Hospitals

417. SHRI BRAHAMDEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Hospitals at zonal level have been provided with cat scan machine;

(b) if not, what arrangements are proposed to procure such machines; and

(c) by when there is likelihood of getting these machines?